FTA NEWS

FOOD, TOBACCO, AGRICULTURAL AND ALLIED WO[RKERS OF AMERICA – CIO

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CONGRESS GETS WORD: RESTORE WAGNER ACT!

Demand Quick And Total Repeal Of Taft-Hartley!

(see page 6, 7)

The first main order of business of the 81st Congress must be the complete repeal of the Taft-Hartley law as promised by President Truman and the Democrats during the election campaign.

This is what the people voted for, it is what they want and it is what they expect.

Together with repeal of the Taft-Hartley law, the Congress must restore the Wagner Labor Relations act as it was before June, 1947.

These two jobs must be done without delay and without evasion. There is no need for hearings, no need for testimony, no need for committee meetings beyond the simple act of reporting out a bill to do the two jobs as quickly as possible.

Actually, the job can be done by both houses of Congress in one day. It has been done before.

The gravest danger now is in delay. Already certain leaders of Congress are talking vaguely of repealing the slave labor law sometime this spring — just before the unions get down to negotiations for new contracts.

Every day that the Taft-Hartley law remains on the books means danger to unions and to the workers' standard of living. The people had more than a year of Taft-Hartley, and they showed by their votes that is was more than enough.

Here are three things that you can do to help speed the death of the most infamous law ever put on the U. S. statute books:

1. Sign and circulate FTA petitions for repeal and restoration of the Wagner act. Rush them to FTA headquarters at 158 N. Twentieth Street, Philadelphia 3, Pa.

2. Write to your own Congressman and your two Senators with the same demand. Tell them—no delay on repeal, no amendments to the Wagner act.

3. Write to President Truman, the White House, Washington, D. C., reminding him of his election promise and urging him to lead the fight for repeal in Congress.

Address all Senators, Senate Office Bldg., Washington, 25, D. C., and all Representatives House Office Bldg., Washington 25, D. C.

Fight Libby's Double Cross

Workers at the Blue Island, Ill. plant of the Libby McNeill and Libby Co., in Blue Island, Ill., marked up a victory this week when FTA Local 194 Chief Steward James Moore was reinstated to his job with back pay totalling $120.4. Moore initiated his case through a lawyer.

Meantime, the local continued to press Libby's to honor management's signature on an agreement reached last August but subsequently repuidiated by the company.

The local took its case to workers and consumers generally in an eight page pamphlet entitled, "Look To Libby's for a Doublecross", and by letters and appeals for moral suport to other unions. (All FTA Office, 158 N. Twentieth St., Philadelphia 3, Pa., for free copies of the pamphlet.)

Meanwhile John Manus, FTA chief steward who preceded Moore, has been fired for the second time by Libby's, after his reinstatement was ordered December 1, with back pay totalling $046.9.

The main issue in dispute between FTA and the company is the question of the contract. It was negotiated and signed in good faith by the union, on the assumption that management's signature meant what it said.

Members of FTA 194 and their supporters among workers and consumers everywhere are determined that no company, however big or arrogant, is going to be permitted to welch on its signed word.

Petitions, Delegates Urge Congress Act

Urging quick and positive action by Congress to repeal the Taft-Hartley slave labor law and restore the Wagner Labor Relations act as it was before June, 1947, scores of thousands of petitions and hundreds of delegates poured into Washington to begin the job of undoing the crimes of the 80th Congress.

Petitions bearing thousands of names came from members of FTA locals in all parts of the country, and many FTA members joined delegations visiting Washington to see their Congressmen in person.

The petitions asked for two immediate total restoration of the Wagner act.

Stress was put on the two step method of action in order to avert a threat of crippling amendments to the Wagner act under a "one step" plan advocated by Congress leaders. This plan, backed by important Administration figures, would involve repeal of Taft-Hartley but only at the expense of long hearings many delays and eventual incorporation of objectionable Taft-Hartley features in the new labor relations law.

FTA and other unions have taken the position that repeal of Taft-Hartley must come first, with complete restoration of the Wagner act following immediately thereafter.

Come across is what FTA Local 194 members are telling management at the Libby, McNeill and Libby plant in Blue Island, Ill., after their refusal to honor their own signature on a contract with the union. Contract was signed last summer, was enforced during peak canning season, and then dumped by management. Workers in other industries and unions are rallying to support Local 194, realizing seriousness of threat to their own standards if Libby's is allowed to get away with union-busting. (see page 5)

Why Unions Fight Raiding

By DONALD HENDERSON, President, FTA

One of the hottest questions at the CIO convention in ortland, Oregon was the matter of raiding of CIO unions by other CIO unions.

The minority report to the CIO convention, devoted a section to this issue:

"The Report (of CIO President Philip Murray) properly brands the Taft-Hartley act as the most infamous and reactionary piece of legislation ever designed by the human mind.

"For this reason, we believe the Report errs in not reprimanding the activity of certain unions in utilizing the Taft-Hartley law to raid other CIO unions. Such raiding can only serve the interests of the enemies of labor and serves as an enormous obstacle to the organization of the unorganized."

Unfortunately, the subject of raiding was not discussed by the majority leaders at the CIO Convention, except in general and rather defensive terms. The minority delegates tried to get it on the floor, but they did not succeed.

Yet raiding is a very serious issue in the American labor movement. It does not matter whether it comes from the AFL or from the CIO—the fact remains that raiding of one union by another has become a very serious and damaging threat to the whole structure of our unions.

Raiding does much more than simply transfer a group of workers from one set of leaders to another.

Raiding opens up the whole front that organized labor must present to the employer if it is to succeed in getting higher wages and better conditions for the rank and file. By breaking the solid front of workers as opposed to bosses, it cripples the workers' strength even before they go into the struggle with the bosses.

The CIO began thirteen years ago in a nationwide expression of workers' disgust with the narrow factionalism of top leaders in the AFL. These men, entrusted with the leadership of millions of American workers, chose over the years to waste the workers' strength in fighting each other, rather than fighting to organize.

The farsighted men who set the ball rolling for CIO almost a decade and a half ago knew this fatal weakness. That is why they set the industrial union system in the then new labor movement. They knew the futility of the 50 years of AFL craft union raiding and counter-raiding in the mass production industries.

Until CIO was formed, there were no unions—CIO or AFL or anything else—in the big canneries, in the giant factories of the tobacco trust, in the great food processing plants of the nation. Now there are unions in these and other industries, with FTA in the van in doubling the wages and improving the conditions of workers under its jurisdiction.

The job was done in the earlier days of CIO progress because each industrial union concentrated in its field. When one plant was organized, the unions moved on to another, unorganized one. They did not turn aside to fight each other over plants already organized.

It was not done without interference, of course, from out and out company unions and from company unions thinly disguised with an AFL charter. But up until recent months, one CIO union did not raid another. In fact, they helped each other, and the National CIO helped all—which is the way things should be.

Now a new concept comes up in CIO. Raiding, we are told, is "reprehensible"—but CIO unions interfering in the affairs of other unions aren't raiding. They are simply "offering a home" to CIO members "in revolt" against their elected leadership.

Thus the attempt is made to justify interference in other unions on political grounds. Because the officers and members of a union choose to support one political candidate against another in an election, the contract conditions of those workers are to be imperilled at will.

Spending the workers' money on disorganizing the already organized is to be allowed, if you happen to disapprove of the other fellow's policies. Trade union solidarity—the thing that built CIO—is to go out the window because of differences on the kind of foreign policy that is best for the workers.

There are 15 million organized workers in the U. S., and 45 million unorganized. The 15 million organized and the 45 unorganized face a constantly increasing attack from the bosses on their wages and living standards. Neither the recent election nor the Marshall Plan is going to solve their problems.

Their problems will be solved by completing the task of organizing the unorganized, by trade union struggle to increase wages and raise living standards, by united, militant action in the struggle for a better life.

FROM WASHINGTON

TAFT-HARTLEY SCOPE

By ELIZABETH SASULY

Repeal of Taft-Hartley and a return to the Wagner Act is the first and most serious business on labor's agenda for the 81st Congress.

The controversy about a one-package deal versus a two-step process have been referred to by administration spokesmen as differences in procedure which will have little effect on the final outcome of the fight. This is not true. If the one-package deal is put over, we are likely to end up with 75 per cent of the Taft-Hartley act and 25 per cent of the Wagner act.

All of organized labor, CIO, AFL, and independent unions is united in demanding the two step approach. For the first time in many years, reactionary members of congress cannot play off one group against another because of their differences in policy and have to face up to the fact that the labor movement understands what is involved in the fight and how to win it.

First, every union member knows that it is one thing to start bargaining from the proposals made by an employer and something else again to begin negotiations on the union's demands. Most of the members of Congress and administration leaders, including President Truman, who have come out for repeal of Taft-Hartley have also stated that they don't want the Wagner Act as it was. Their minimum demand is for prohibition on jurisdictional disputes, secondary boycotts, strikes over contract interpretation and strikes affecting what is called national welfare. The supporters of Taft-Hartley in Congress want as much more of Taft-Hartley as they can get. Remember that there are still 250 Congressmen who voted for Taft-Hartley, a good majority of the 435 members of the House of Representatives.

If we start bargaining on what amendments to the Wagner Act will go into the package with repeal of Taft-Hartley while the Taft-Hartley act is still on the books, we will be in a much weaker position than if we get clean repeal and fight against amendments with the Wagner act on the books. As one labor representative put it, we don't want to bargain with our faces in the mud.

Furthermore, even if we were able to fight off most of these amendments while we are fighting for repeal of Taft-Hartley, it would be a long process with hearings on amendments, and further dragged out in debate in both the Senate and House. In the meantime, we would still be living under Taft-Hartley and a negotiating contract under Taft-Hartley conditions. At the very minimum, this period would be two or three months.

But if the two step process is followed, the most reactionary Congressmen and their big business pals will be only too anxious to get Taft-Hartley repeal over with so that they can start to get congressional action on their demands for amendments to the Wagner act. In the meantime we would be living under the Wagner act.

Finally, there is a large group in Congress who voted for Taft-Hartley but have been scared by the defeat of many Taft-Hartley Congressmen. They are going to take their cue on this and other issues from how much heat the labor movement can put on to get the two step process adopted.

At present, Rep. Lesinski (D. Mich.), chairman of the House Labor Committee is the main spokesman for the one package deal. Senator Thomas (D. Utah), chairman of the Senate labor Committee is wavering. Senator Pepper (D. Fla.), longtime friend of labor on the Senate Committee has stated publicly that he favors repeal of Taft-Hartley and reenactment of the Wagner Act before any amendments to the Wagner Act are taken up. Senator Neely (D. W. Va.), is also known to favor the two step process.

This is the first key test on whether labor, united in its program, can make election victories stick. If we don't get complete repeal of Taft Hartley speedily, our friends in Congress will figure they can slide by with compromises on everything. The Taft-Hartley members who came back scared will decide they don't have to worry so much about labor after all, and our enemies will get out the axe with renewed vigor.

Every representative and senator should hear from his constituents that all labor wants the payoff on campaign promises now: Taft-Hartley off the books and the Wagner Act back on. Tell the president the same thing, and explain why.

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At least one of these clowns will be less in the public eyes in 1949. Rep. Fred A. Hartley (R., N. J.), co-author of that law, shown in whimsical mood with ex-pug "Two-Ton" Tony Galento, didnd't have the courage to face his voters for re-election to Congress.

Layoffs Climbing As Thousands Lose Jobs

The pink slip is being passed out again to thousands of workers as layoffs increase in many industries. For the first time since the end of the war, workers are finding job openings harder to come by.

Last week, in Campbell Soup's huge plant at Camdon, N. J., 2,000 workers were laid off "indefinitely." Campbell's warehouses, it seems, are crammed to the bursting point and production has to be cut.

The R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. in Winston-Salem, N. C., where FTA Local 22 members are fighting to secure a contract from the biggest tobacco plant in the world, has put all workers on a four day week, which in effect is a 20 per cent layoff.

These are two samples, showing what is happening to the workers in two of the largest plants where FTA is organized. They can be duplicated scores of times in smaller canneries, in leafhouses, in food processing plants all over the nation.

The same story is true in other industries outside FTA jurisdiction. AWall Street Journal survey of 17 cities reported that "some layoff's are developing in most areas."

Coal mining jobs in Pennsylvania are reported down 10 per cent. Ten per cent of the shoe workers in the New England states are out of work. Unemployment among clothing workers in New York has increased 40 per cent. The textile industry appears to be in a slump, with 28,000 workers laid off between August and October alone. The big, unorganized Hanes knitting mill in Winston-Salem, N. C., is on a short work week. A big blanket firm has blandly announced that there are "too many" blankets and has shut down.

Unemployment compensation rolls are rising. In Detroit, claims for compensation jumped from 17,600 to 27,000 between November and December. In Oregon, 45,000 workers are on the rolls compared to 21,000 two months ago.

This, of course, means only one thing for the workers and their families—hungry bellies. A laid-off woman worker at Reynolds was told by her supervisor, "What are you kicking about—you'll get three days rest instead of two." "Sure," the worker replied, "but I don't rest so good on an empty stomach.'

NEGROES HIT HARD

As usual, Negro workers are hit especially hard — last hired, first fired. The situation in Philadelphia has got to the point where a special committee to hunt jobs for Negro workers is being set up.

Women workers are also being laid off early. Here the old lie about women working only for "pin money" is being trotted out to justify firings. Actually, as any woman worker knows, women don't work in factories for fun. They work there because they have to support their families and when they are laid off, their families suffer.

Big business tycoons polled by **Fortune** magazine are taking a gloomy view of the economic future. According to the survey, the majority of the bosses expect three or four million unemployed within the next six months. Discounting some of this anti-wage increase propaganda, it would seem the big boys aren't as exuberant about prosperity as they were a year ago.

And Fortune in its own cheerful way adds: "Unemployment is not expected to reach catastrophic proportions—a majority put it between two and three million by next July, which can still be read as virtual full employment."

TWO MAIN CAUSES

Back of the spreading layoffs are two main causes—the speed-up and high prices. Campbell Soup's warehouses are crammed because the people have been priced out of their purchasing power. Canned fruit and citrus is moving slowly because the people can't afford to buy as much as they need and want.

The head of the A & P grocery chain complains publicly that people are spending so much money on television sets and houses that they have too little left for food. The electrical appliance manufacturers retort that food costs so much people can't buy gadgets—and electrical workers are laid off.

The speedup increases constantly. Workers productivity (that is, the amount of goods each worker turns out in a given time) has increased 25 per cent since the war.

Remember the NAM line that workers must produce more to stop inflation? The workers have produced more, and now their reward comes—in the shape of layoffs.

Prayer With A Punch

The Rev. Peter Marshall, the chaplain who opens all U. S. Senate sessions with a prayer, knows how to put a real punch into his supplication. This is what he prayed for on Jan. 3, the first meeting of the 81st Congress:

O Lord, our God, look with favor upon the members of the Senate, and bless each one of them according to his needs. May they be aware of a man date higher than that of the ballot box, a mandate from Thee, to legislate wisely and well."

New York Probes Cemetery Profits

New York state authorities are turning up fantastic profit figures in the sale of burial plots by some cemeteries, it was reported this week.

One such concern parlayed a $200 investment into a $1,650,000 profit in five years, the state Attorney General said. The state has asked the N. Y. Supreme Court to enjoin the concern from selling more lots and to oust its present officers.

The state official said that high-presure salesmen working with kits of colored pictures and testimonials sold plots at a 100 per cent or higher profit.

Almost all cemeteries, incidently, describe themselves as 'non-profit" organizations, particularly at contract negotiation time.

Local 44 Elects

Newly elected officers of FTA Local 44 at the Central Soya Co., in Decatur, Ind., are: Albert Tinkham, president; Elmer Meyers, vice-president; Chalmers Stevens, financial secretary; Paul Sharp, recording secretary and LaVern Bowman, trustee.

FTA 172 Wins 19c Top

Top raise won by FTA Local 172 at the Pioneer Flour Mills in San Antonio, Texas, is 19 cents an hour for m illwrights, the local reports.

Ten cents straight across the board was won for other workers, bringing the minimum for regular workers to 80 cents.

12c Won By FTA 162

An increase of slightly more than 12 cents an hour, plus substantial improvements in the contract, has just been won for the workers at the Corinth, Mississippi Brick Company by FTA local 102.

Contract improvements include stronger seniority improved vacations and an agreement to transfer workers to higher paid jobs for any week during which they work more than four hours in one shift at a higher paid job than their regular assignment.

Who's A Farmer?

Irrigation workers are "farmers" according to the arguments before the U. S. Supreme Court. Company lawyers are trying to avoid overtime payments and other benefits due to these workers under the wage-hour law.

Labor Department council convinced the U. S. Court of Appeals at Denver that employes of Farmers Reservoir & Irrigation Co., were entitled to the protection of the law. Company lawyers argue that in semi-arid regions, crops cannot be raised without irrigation. Therefore, they contend, the workers who furnish the water are engaged in agriculture.

By the same reasoning tractors are necessary in farming. Therefore farm equipment workers are farmers, too.

Cemetery Workers Strike In New York

FTA workers at Calvary Cemetery in New York aren't having anything to do with "escalator" wage rates and to prove their point they've gone out on strike against management's refusal to offer an acceptable increase.

The workers are members of FTA Local 293, which has been asking the cemetery owners to institute a 40 hour week at the same rate now paid for 48 hours—$59.40 a week. Weekend work would come at time and a half.

Msgr. George C. Ehardt, who manages the cemetery for St. Patricks Cathedral, made the proposal to tie wages to the Bureau of Labor Statistics 'cost of living" index, which would bring wage cuts at any time the BLS declares the cost of living has fallen. The BLS index has been under union fire for many years for its failure to measure the real cost of living.

Two hundred and fifty FTA workers are involved in the walkout, which began on January 13. The old contract expired December 31.

Local 647 Strikes Di Nobili Cigar Co.

A straight increase per 100 cigars made and "no more formulas" tied to sales is the demand of FTA Local 647 workers now on strike at the Di Nobili Cigar Co., in Long Island City, N. Y.

Answering company claims that workers are well enough paid now, Local President Rosario Alessi issued an open letter this week which declared:

'We have had no increase in two years although living costs have gone up sharply. Our average hourly earnings are not much over $1.00 though the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics shows the lowest paid group of workers are the unorganized retail clerks and they earn over $1.09 an hour."

President Alessi added that while Di Nobili 'is complaining about small profits, it is interesting to note that in the last five years its surplus has increased from about $100,000 to nearly $500,000 and they have paid dividends during this period."

Di Nobili is owned by Italian nationals and as such has been under control of the U. S. Alien Property Custodian since the war begain.

FTA Blasts Greek 'Trials'

Use of U. S. courts by the monarchist Greek government to terrorize Greek seamen in American ports was condemned in a statement signed this week by FTA Secretary - Treasurer Armando Valdes and other union leaders.

Cause of the protest was the action of Greek consular authorities in bringing four Greek seamen to a Philadelphia court on charges of "mutiny" and "insubordination."

The charges grew out of a request by four Greek seamen that they be paid for opening and closing the hatches on their ship in port here. This work is always done by longshoremen and the local rate for it is $1.60 an hour. Thus the Greek shipowners were seeking to gyp American union members out of their jobs.

Penalty asked against the four seamen is deportation to Greece, where strikers and militant union members are excuted.

Anthony Valentino, business agent of FTA Local 80 and George Ardelean, business agent of 186, also signed the protest, with a large number of other CIO and AFL leaders.

Associated 'Farmers' Ask New Union-Busting Laws

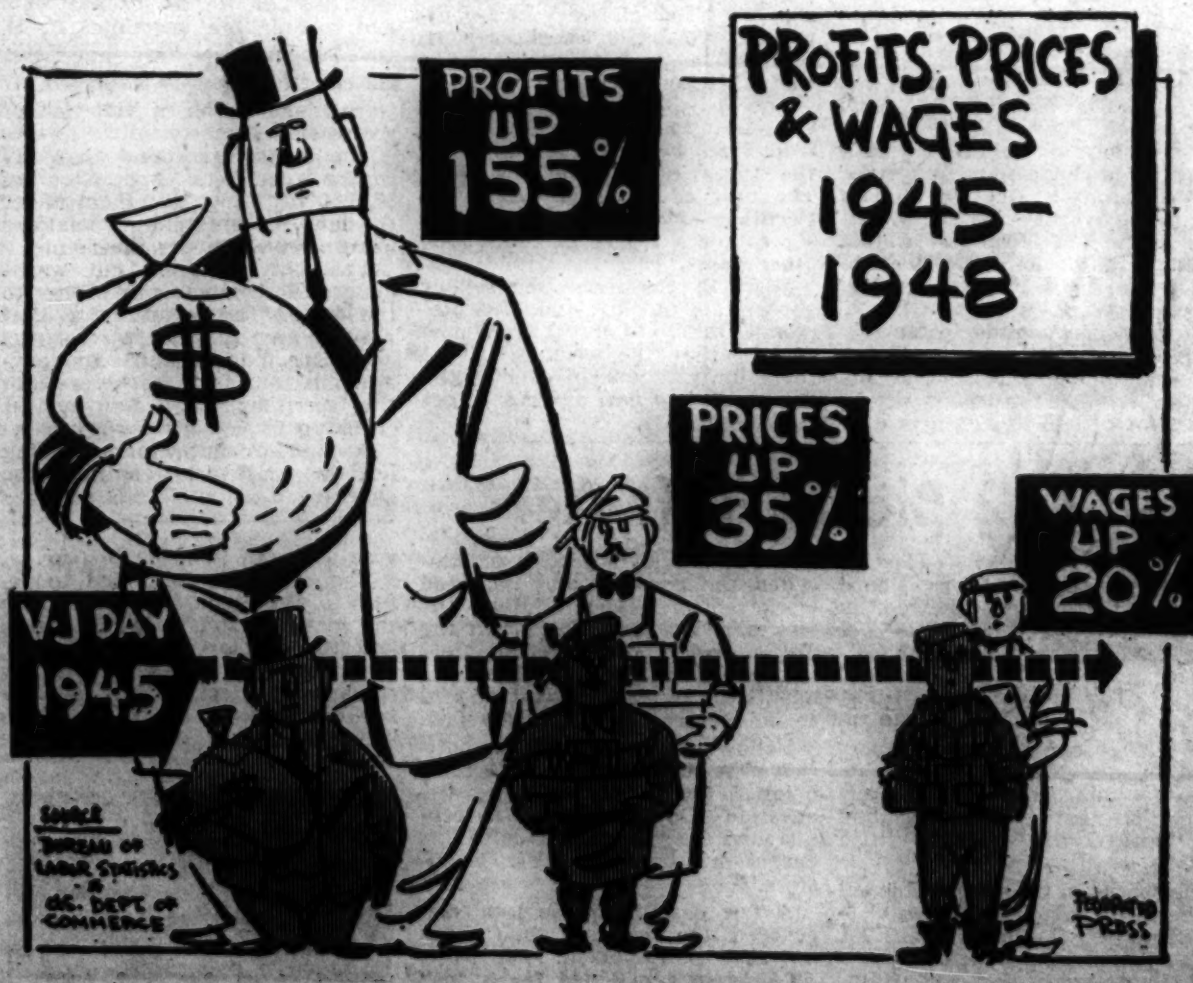
The Associated Farmers, Inc., who figured so largely as strike-breakers and scab herders in the LaFollette investigations in California a decade ago are at it again. This time they're asking the California state legislature for laws to put road-blocks in the way of organizing agricultural, cannery and food processing and packing workers.

The bill the AF is after is being offered by state Senator George J. Hatfield (R), and would set up a 12 man advisory board with power to dictate policy for the state Department of Labor.

The proposed measure would thus legalize the present state Agricultural Advisory Council which has acted to flood the country with surplus foreign labor, beat down wage scales, block farm labor organization and supply a force of strike-breakers to the big commercial farms.

In addition, the council would have similar powers over cannery and other food processing workers in Hatfield's bill. AF is plugging the Hatfield bill as hard as it can, and inaddition is urging formation of a single state body to import Mexican workers. The group is also opposing the setting up of U. S. government farm labor camps.

Libby, McNeill and Libby—now trying to welch on its contract with FTA Local 194—was listed by LaFollette as one of the original backers of AF when it was set up.



Look To Libby's For A Doublecross

Libby workers and friends walk the picketlines at the Blue Island, Ill. plant to help persuade Libby management make up its mind to honor its own signature on contract with FTA Local 194. Contract was signed last summer, broken by Libby after tomato pack was safely in.

"In God We Trust—Libby's Cash" is the blunt sentiment on picket sign carried in demonstration by members of FTA Local 194 outside Libby, McNeill and Libby plant near Chicago. FTA workers throughout the nation, with other unionsts, are helping 194 win its beef against the doublecross.

FTA 194 Asks

How Good Is The Boss's Word?

Just how good is the boss' word on a signed contract is the question workers in the Chicago area are asking as they watch the Libby, McNeill and Libby Co. try to slide out of its agreement with FTA Local 194 in Blue Island, Ill. This article, published as a pamphlet for Local 194, urges workers and consumers to learn the facts about Libby's and to protest the company's brazed attempt to repudiate its own signature on a contract. Copies can be obtained free from FTA Publicity Dept., 158 N. 20th St., Philadelphia 3, Pa.

"Look To Libby's For Perfection" says the slogan on every can of food put out by the Libby, McNeill and Libby Company, second largest cannery firm in the world. Libby, McNeill and Libby is a big and wealthy corporation, rated as responsible in all its business dealings—except apparently, when it comes to dealing with unions.

In the summer of 1948, Libby, McNeill and Libby put its signature on a contract with the union that has represented the 500 workers at its Blue Island Illinois plant near Chicago since 1937.

Now in the winter of 1948-49, Libby, McNeill and Libby is refusing to honor its own signature on the agreement . . . refusing to carry through with a contract covering its collective bargaining relations with Local 194 of the Food, Tobacco, Agricultural and Allied Workers Union of America, CIO.

How much is the word of Libby, McNeill and Libby worth? Because this situation affects all unions, all workers and all consumers, FTA Local 194 asks you to read and act upon this brief account of the Libby doublecross at Blue Island, Ill.

BACKGROUND TO DECEIT

For better than eleven years, the 500 workers at the Blue Island, Illinois plant of the Libby, McNeill and Libby Corporation have been represented by the Food, Tobacco, Agricultural and Allied Workers Union of America, CIO.

Last summer the local's negotiating committee went to Libby's management to work out a new contract. After the usual bargaining an agreement was reached and Libby's and the nUion signed. The contract provided for a raise, back pay, seniority, checkoff, etc.

The workers worked hard and long hours to produce a record crop for Libby's. No complaints were heard from management. On the contrary, workers were praised for their effort.

Then, when the tomato pack was in, when the peak season was over, Libby suddenly reneged on its agreement. The contract was ignored. No move was made to pay the back wages due the workers. The checkoff was not honored. Seniority was disregarded.

In a word, Libby's management dishonored its own signature on the agreement with FTA Local 194.

When the workers learned about the doublecross, they turned to their Chief Steward, Jimmie Moore. Moore called a meeting—after hours—in the plant cafeteria..

"I WANT SOMEBODY'S HIDE"

Chief Steward Moore asked five questions: 1. What was Liby's going to do about the contract? 2. When was the back pay going to be paid? 3. What about seniority rights? 4. What about the mechanics' classifications? 5. What was Libby's going to do about the case of John Manus, former chief steward?

(John Manus, a veteran with 44 months service in five war theaters, had been fired a while back because he was, in management's words, "too good a union man").

Management's answer came within a few days. William E. Schaeffer, Libby's Labor Relations Director, called in Moore and the other stewards—on company time.

Schaeffer put it bluntly. "Management was humiliated by this demonstration. I want somebody's hide. Make up your minds who's gonna quit."

Two days later Moore was called back and told he had until December 10 to quit. Moore refused to quit.

In a burst of generosity Schaeffer told Moore he could have two weeks to find another job—then had him locked out of the plant. On December 3 Moore was fired—Libby's thus chiselling a week on its own date for Moore's departure. As an added measure of spite, Moore's discharge slip was marked "misconduct" to make it hard for him to get his unemployment compensation.

To clinch the company's intimidation, a fellow-worker of Moore's who went into the Personnel office with him was given two warnings for "infringing on the prerogatives of management."

"THE ISSUE IS COMMUNISM"

Libby's management, of course, raised the familiar cry of "communism." The issue, they said, was "communism against democracy." They called up other companies under contract with FTA Local 194 to ask what they "had on 194's leaders."

Let us look at the record. The two chief shop stewards that were fired, Manus and Moore, are war veterans. Manus enlisted in the Coast Guard in April, 1942. Moore went into the Army in September of the same year.

Manus served in the Atlantic, European, Pacific and China-India-Burma areas. He was torpedoed twice. He won seven medals, was cited for bravery for helping rescue 162 men. He was the first to go war from Libby's and the last to come back. Moore served 40 months, has three medals.

Manus and Moore fought for democracy the hard way in the shooting war. Libby, McNeill and Libby made profits in the shooting war. The war added $6,500,000 to Libby's net worth. In 1940 Libby's was worth $33,500,000. In 1948 it was worth over $50,000,000. Total assets were $27,000,000 more in 1948 than 1940.

Libby stockholders got a 67 per cent increase in dividends in one year alone—1947 compared to 1946. Libby's made 13.2 cents clear profit for every dollar of invested capital in 1947—better by nearly four per cent than the average for 3,102 other leading companies.

John Manus has three children—Frank, 11, John, nine and Mary, eight. Moore has two, a boy of four and a girl aged 21 months.

THE REST OF THE STORY

The rest of the Libby story is equally shabby. After Moore was fired, they started cutting premium rates on piece work. Workers were laid off regardless of seniority. A group of workers was laid off w hile a shop floor was to be repaired. After they got home, they found discharge slips in the mail. Mechanics were arbitrarily downgraded—some of them with 20 and 25 years service.

Libby's preaches "tolerance," once invited the union to find competent Negro workers for promotion. Jimmie Moore, who is a skilled carpenter, asked for a carpenter job that was open. A white painter was given the job.

A group of Negro workers wrote letters protesting discrimination in jobs. Management's ansker was to read the letters aloud to all the employes, saying "this is how wars are tarted."

(Continued on Page 5)

Redbaiting Pays Off— In 10% Wage Losses

CIO raiding in FTA Local 98, Little Rock, Ark., has paid off to the workers in sour coin—a loss of nearly ten cents of a wage increase won by a unit of the local that stayed with FTA.

The sellout came when a redbaiting campaign led by former FTA Organizer Georgia Morris stampeded workers at the Buckeye, Swift and Virginia-Carolina fertilizer plants in Little Rock to switch over from FTA to the Gas, Coke and Workers union, CIO.

Mrs. Morris, while ostensibly working for FTA as a paid organizer, put out leaflets and letters to fertilizer workers saying that FTA couldn't get a new contract because the union did not sign the Taft-Hartley "non-communist" affidavits. Workers were promised a quick 15 cent raise if they switched over.

The payoff came when Gas, Coke and Chemical signed a contract for a five cent raise covering the three plants that switched. The unit of the local—Arkansas Fertilizer—that stayed with FTA signed for a top of 14 cents, plus other gains.

Word of the redbaiting sellout got around quickly, and FTA Regional Director Larry Larsen now reports that the workers in the three units that went over to the Gas union are now anxious to get back into FTA.

More Than Half Alaska Bosses Break Wage Law

Well over half the employers in Alaska have violated the wage-hour law by failure to pay time and a half for overtime, U. S. government inspectors have disclosed. Of 75 places inspected, 47 were found to be in violation of the law.

The inspectors found that 217 workers had been cheated out of $61,000 back pay due them under the law. Most of these violations were on overtime requirements.

The 80th Congress cut wage-hour enforcement provisions to the bone. The result was that Alaska, among other places, was not inspected. Recently the government sent four inspectors into the Territory for a four-months check-up.

A staff of inspectors is being left in Alaska to continue the check-up.

FTA 272 Blocks Taft Act

The ways of the Taft-Hartley National Labor Relations Board are truly wonderful to behold, as the members of FTA Local 272 have found out in Bakersfield, California.

They found that the Taft-Hartley NLRB has a strange magic by which it can change a representation election into one for or against a union ship—and in making this interesting discovery, they also blocked the NLRB's little plan.

The workers, who are employed at the California Cooperative Cotton Compress Co., organized FTA 272 in November, 1847, and after a 45 minute strike won a contract. Came 1948 and the employer cancelled the contract and imported workers from Texas to take the jobs of FTA members. When the Texas people got to Bakersfield they were told by AFL Teamster agents to sign cards that were said to be required by California law.

Following that, the NLRB notified FTA of an election. FTA campaigned for a "no" vote on the question "Do you wish to be represented for purposes of collective bargaining by the AFL Teamsters."

A few days later the local discovered the election had been switched to a union shop vote. FTA again camaigned for a "no" vote and won it by 69 to four.

The employer continued to refuse to sign a contract, whereupon the workers struck briefly again and the employer came across. Just how the NLRB can legally change an election has all the lawyers puzzled—but the workers knew the answer when they vote "no."

ARTHUR GAETH—ABC
"Let the People Speak"
Sponsored by UE-CIO
EVERY MONDAY NIGHT

How Good Is The Boss's Word?

(Continued from Page 4)

Libby's has no Negro mechanics, supervisors or office help.

To top it all, Libby's fired Moore—a Negro—two weeks before Christmas. The union provided the Moore family's Christmas dinner.

Libby's is a big corporation with a long history of labor relations, most of it bad. Libby's appears frequently in the records of the LaFollette Reports on Violations of Civil Liberties and the Rights of Labor. Libby's financed the notorious Associated Farmers, Inc., whose armed thugs caused the death of several food and agricultural workers in California in the 30's.

Libby's is a leader in the Alaska Salmon Industry, Inc., which tried—and failed—this year to bust FTA Local 7 with a company union. Libby's is a leader in California Processors and Growers, Inc., which was accused by LaFollette of running a company union in the canneries, has been cited by the NLRB for making backdoor deals on collusive contracts with unions.

The Secretary of CP&G once said: "Unfortunately, the better class of workers are in danger of becoming the serfs of the bosses, the profiteers and racketeers of labor."

In other words, only bums join unions. Libby's, as the second largest contributor to CP&G, undoubtedly fully endorses CP&G's labor policies. After all, they match those of Libby's itself.

THE WORD AND THE BOND

Business transactions are built on signed contracts, faithfully observed by both sides. No businessman, merchant, landlord or homeowner can do business without such contracts. Libby's buys its materials and its supplies by contract. Libby executives deal by contract every day in the year.

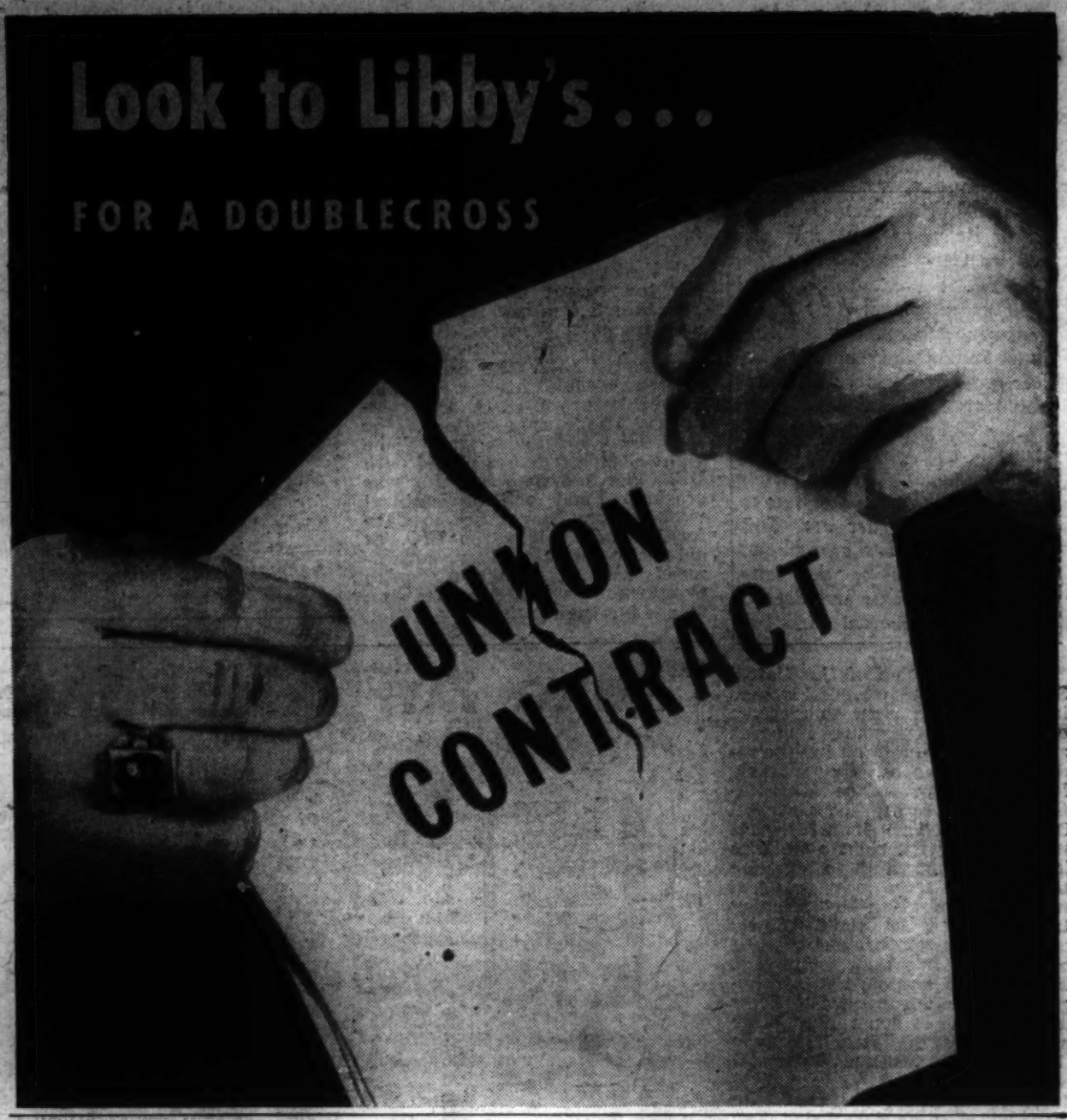
Good labor relations are achieved in the same way—through contracts signed and carried out in good faith. This is what the workers at the Blue Island, Illinois plant of Libby, McNeill and Libby are asking. This is what Libby's agreed to do when they signed the contract last summer.

If Libby's succeeds in denying its workers and FTA Local 194 the contract it is legally and morally bound to give them, the same treatment can be handed out to workers in other firms and other industries. The case of Johnny Manus and Jimmie Moore can be repeated everywhere. No worker or his union is safe while Libby's continues to dishonor its signature on an agreement for a contract.

The issue is not "communism." It has nothing to do with affidavits or any part of the Taft-Hartley law. The issue is clear—to workers, businessmen, housewives, consumers, farmers—shall a big corporation be allowed to openly and shamelessly repudiate a signed agreement with a union that has represented its workers for more than eleven years?

We ask workers and all consumers to write to Daniel W. Creeden, President, Libby, McNeill and Libby, Chicago 9, Ill., asking him to live up to his company's pledged word by signing and observing the agreed contract with FTA Local 194 of Blue Island, Illinois.

Tell him that "Look To Libby's For Perfection" does not appeal while workers are arbitrarily fired, earnings are cut and Libby's signed word is disregarded. After all, there's more to a can of food than the label.



Immediate Delivery Wanted

The November elections were like a big market where the political parties spread out their wares for the American people. The bulk of the people chose the Democratic party.

The Democrats evidently made the most effective appeal with the political goods they advertised in their platform and in President Truman's campaign speeches. Now it is time for the goods to be delivered. Here are some of the things we have a right to expect, on the basis of campaign pledges:

1. **Repeal of Taft-Hartley. We were promised repeal of Taft-Hartley and reenactment of the Wagner act. The danger shaping up as the first session of the new Congress gets under way is that Taft-Hartley repeal will be tied in with anti-labor amendments to the Wagner act, all in one package.**

Taft-Hartley is going to be one of the first big tests. There will be no excuse for any talk about new amendments until Taft-Hartley is stricken from the books and the Wagner act is put back.

2. Civil rights. The Democratic platform promised a full civil rights program. President Truman repeated the promise all through his campaign. In his first message to the new Congress the President again said he was asking for enactment of the full program of his Commission on Civil Rights. Here is the program as it was outlined:

Effective legislation to stop lynching; an end to the polltax; an end to Jimcrow in the armed services and the government; passage and enforcement of a fair employment practices law.

There is no room for compromise on any part of this program. It was all promised. It is all part of the simplest carrying out of the U. S. Constitution. It all has to be delivered. In this case the Democrats cannot claim minority party obstruction because the Republicans said they were for this program too. The civil rights program can be stopped only if the administration yields to a Dixicrat filibuster. Protection of Civil rights also should include abolition of the un-American committee which President Truman accused of spreading red herring.

3. **Social security extension. Acording to the campaign pledges, Social Security benefits will be increased, coverage will be broadened. That means packing shed workers and agricultural workers have a right now to come under the social security system. The food processing corporations will continue their pressure campaign against extension of coverage. There will have to be counter-pressure to make the new Congress come through with its promised extension.**

4. Wage-hour law. Part of the Truman fair-deal is supposed to be a fair minimum wage for the workers who need it. That means for FTA workers a $1 an hour minimum and a 40 hour week for food and tobacco workers through repeal of all overtime exemptions.

5. Medical program. A full health insurance plan was promised. Delivery on this promise is one of the things most needed. Particularly to be guarded against is any exemption deal which will rob food processing workers of health insurance through lack of coverage.

6. Agricultural labor benefits. In line with the fair deal all around, agricultural labor has a right to a program of its own. For a starter, farm wage workers have a right to:

Coverage under the Wagner act; social security coverage, including health insurance; minimum wage and hour protection.

7. Prices. In his state of the union message to the new Congress, President Truman said that prices are too high. He campaigned on a program of lowering prices. With both houses of Congress under Democratic leadership, labor has a right to expect, not a complicated ten or twenty point program, but direct steps to cut the cost of living.

8. **Housing. Bills to end the housing shortage have kicked around in Congress for several years. But the houses have remained in the blueprint stage. Blueprints will not keep out the cold. The Democrats promised a full scale housing program if they were allowed to take over the new Congress. Now is the time for delivery of a housing program. . . .**

The Strange Case of Charles E. Bedaux Speedup King and Friend of Facists

By C. W. *Fowler*

Why do millionaires commit suicide? Do rich men ordinarily bump themselves off just because they've been found friendly with fascists?

Charles E. Bedaux, the inventor of the speedup system in use in many U. S. and European factories, was a millionaire, a friend of German Nazis and other fascists and a one-time pal of England's Duke of Windsor, yet four years ago in March, 1944, it was reported that he had committed suicide in a U. S. Immigration cell in Miami, Florida.

What kind of man was this Bedaux, whose system has brought sweated labor, unemployment and hunger to hundreds of thousands of workers? Who were his friends and close associates, his buddies in high finance and high society on two continents?

This article, based on research in newspaper and magazine files over the past 12 years, attempts to answer questions workers have been asking ever since speedup became an exact science.

THE SYSTEM

Briefly, the Bedaux system, variants of which are used in some of the largest canneries and other plants in the U. S. forces workers to speedup to the breaking point to produce more goods in less time. As it works out, the worker sometimes gets a little extra pay, actually gyps himself and fellow-workers out of overtime and eventually, if he sweats hard enough, finds himself out of a job.

Usually the system operates on a "B Unit" or "B Hour" setup, under which the worker puts out more and more production and more and more profits for the boss in less and less time. As one conservative source put it—the "Ohio State Experiment Station News" os far back as 1938 says:

'Sometimes, of course the conveyor is speeded up to the point where the men are working almost feverishly, but this is bad practice and should be condemned, as it tends to exhaust the operators."

So much for the system. Bedaux made a great deal of money out of it. Back in 1938, when Greece was under the fascist regime of Metaxas, he was called in to install his system there. The Turkish government of the time retained him. In 1940, after France was sold out to the Nazis, he became the friend and admirer of Marshall Pétain, whose Vichy government fought the U. S. and sent thousands of French workers to Nazi concentration camps.

Bedaux was closely associated with top German Nazis, some of whom were since hanged for war crimes and others, like Hjalmar Schacht, were set free. According to **The Nation** of March 6, 1944, Bedaux gained entree into high Nazi circles by getting to know Schacht's mistress. Through this connection he became friendly with Joachim von Ribbentrop, Hitler's

Charles E. Bedaux

foreign minister (hanged), Otto Abetz, gauleiter of conquered France, Fritz Wiedemann, Nazi counsel in San Francisco who was recalled at our request, Pierre Laval, Vichy premier who was shot by the French, and others of the master race and their stooges.

Bedaux liked to live well, as indeed he could on the royalties from his system. According to **Business Week** of June 11, 1937:

"Mr. Bedaux likes good food, good wine, good clothes. He has an apartment on Fifth Ave., New York, a game preserve in the South, a grouse shooting moor in Scotland, not to mention the $600,000 Chateau de Cande in France where the Windsors were married.

(Another source says the chateau cost $900,000.)

He also had a "play apartment" in New York's Greenwich Village which, as an admiring reporter wrote, was redecorated to suit the particular kind of party he might want to give as the mood seized him. "Mr. Bedaux," says the reporter, "took this apartment under an assumed name. His wife, however, knew about it . . . "

Bedaux's greatest social success, however, came when he invited the Duke of Windsor and Mrs. Wally Simpson to be married in his French dream-castle. Windsor and Bedaux had much in common. The ex-king of England had been on an extensive tour of German factories, where Robert Ley, Hitler's labor front chief, led him around. (Ley hanged himself on a toilet seat in the men's room at Nuremberg prison).

After the Nazi-conducted tour, Bedaux and Windsor conceived the idea of a trip to this country, to inspect factories, workers' housing, etc. The trip was announced with much publicity—and immediately the roof fell in on the ex-king and his speedup friend.

To its credit, the Baltimore, Md., AFL led the chorus of U. S. union protest. CIO leaders spoke up against the trip. Even William Green endorsed the Baltimore AFL's resolution denouncing Bedaux the projected visit. John L. Lewis said "no comment," but permitted subordinates in the CIO to blast it.

The trip was called off, and it is not known that Windsor has yet seen the inside of an American plant or an American worker's home. Bedaux dropped out of sight with the coming of the war, but he was still at work with his fascist friends. Finally, in 1944, the U. S. authorities picked him up in North Africa and brought him under guard to this country.

Bedaux, who had lived abroad for 17 years without the formality of retaining American citizenship, tried now to prove that he was an American citizen. The authorities told him, in effect, that that was OK and he would now face treason charges.

Bedaux was in a bit of a dilemma. According to the reports at the time, he took the suicide route out. He had hoarded a supply of sleeping pills, it wa ssaid and he swallowed them all in the detention cell at Miami, Florida.

Millionaires ordinarily don't kill themselves—they have so much to live for. But Bedaux did, as U. S. authorities reported, and thus wrote finis to an evil career of exploiting his fellow man. Bedaux is dead, but his infamous speedup system lingers on in canneries and textile mills, plants of a score of varities and hundreds of corporations.

The workers will write finis to that, too, when the speedup and the stretch-out are finally abolished by action of the trade unions of America.

Fight For Freedom

HOW THE WAGNER ACT WAS WON

The Wagner Act (National Labor Relations Act) was passed by Congress 13 years ago, in 1935. It guaranteed workers their constitutional right to organize and bargain collectively in unions of their own choice, free from restraint or intimidation from the boss.

The Wagner act was destroyed by the .Taft-Hartley law. Now the CIO and all labor is pressing the 81st Congress to restore the Wagner act. This article gives the background and a brief history of the long struggle to achieve and defend the rights it guaranteed.

The Constitution of the United States gave every man and woman in America the right to freedom of assembly, freedom of speech and freedom to petition for the redress o grievances. The founding fathers who wrote the Constitution did not forsee the powerful forces of modern industry that were to deny the right o workers in factory and mill to exercise these rights in the most practical way open to them—by forming trade unions which could bargain on something approaching a place of equality with their employers. They put no specific right to organize in the document they drew up. That had to come later, after many years of bitter struggle throughout American industrial history.

It came in the passage of the National Labor Relations Act, more popularly known as the Wagner act for its sponsor, Senator Robert F. Wagner of New York. Before the Wagner act was on the books, countless thousands of men and women workers faced intimidation and terror, the blacklist, hounding from job to job, even death itself at the hands of ruthless corporations.

ORGANIZE OR GO UNDER

Each depression, each new advance in technology, each extension of the power of industry brought closer to the workers the need of fighting to organize and protect their welfare from the bosses' attack. Finally, in the hungry 30's of Hoover's time, the great crash drove the workingclass almost to the wall .They had to have organization or go under, the way the workers in Germany and other facist-ridden nations went under during the long night of nazism.

Franklin D. Roosevelt and the New Deal leaders around him knew this, and they resolved to secure the right to organize and bargain collectively in the statute books.

The fight of the workers against wage cutting and mass starvation brought them to this realization, and with them a majority of the New Deal Congress. The rise of company unions in the early 30's showed that the bosses were determined to head off the unions by trickery and deceit as well as by open force.

Any worker whose memory goes back 15 or a dozen years will recall the "Employe Representation Plans" that sprang up by the thousands when the bosses figured tthat force alone wasn't enough. These "Employe Representation Plans" (sometimes called, simply, ERP) were strictly phony. The boss ran them, financed them, frequently without dues from the workers, appointed the officers and saw to it that they kept away from anything resembling a real grievance. The highest level of achievement of the typical ERP was a new drinking fountain, perhaps, or maybe an extra restroom.

BOSSES FIGHT BACK

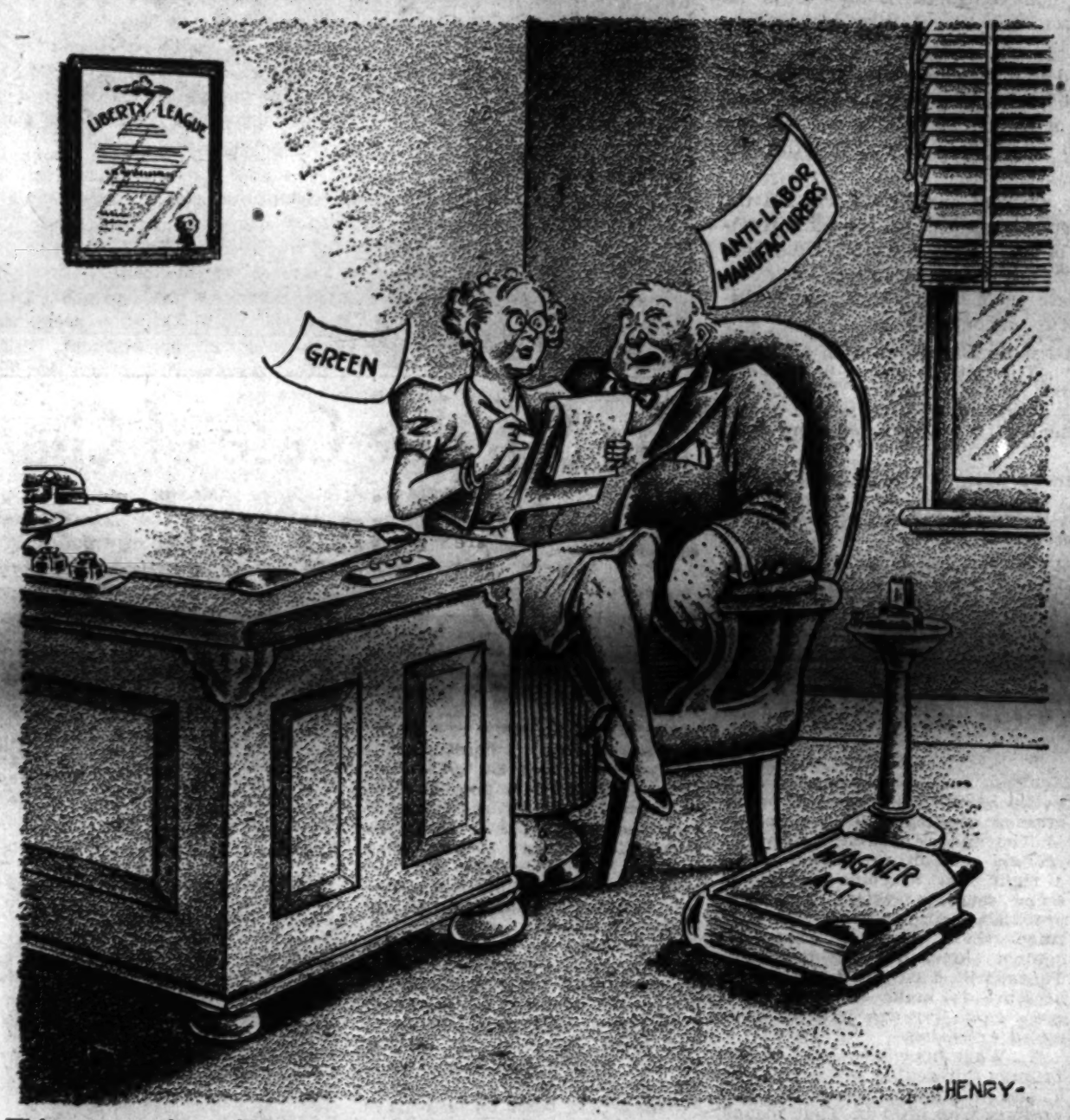
The passage of the Wagner act did not bring an immediate correction of all these evils. The bosses continued to fight. At first, their high-priced lawyers told them it was "unconstitutional." The Liberty League advised its members simply to ignor it—the Supreme Court would knock it out.

In 1937 the Supreme Court let the bosses down. Softened up by FDR's bold attack on the "nine old men," and also realizing that the people were determined to build free unions, they declared the Wagner act constitutional in a famous cas involving Morris Watson, then a leader of the CIO Newspaper Guild.

With passage of the Wagner act, the organization of the workers took great strides forward. The United Cannery Agricultural and Packing Workers (forerunner of FTA) was chartered in the summer of 1937. The Steelworkers won election after election in the backbone of U. S. heavy industry. The stormy career of the UAW-CIO got under way. The giant electrical trusts signed with UE. The maritime industry was cracked. Food and agricultural worker from New Yosrk to California flocked into the CIO, as did white collar workers, government workers, men and women everywhere who depended on wages for their living.

Some of the most prominent politicians of the time voted against the Wagner act. Senator Arthur Vandenburg of Michigan, darling of the automobile manufacturers and architect of the present "bipartisan" foreign policy was one. Another was Rep. Clare Hoffman, virulent labor-hater who helped run the House Labor Committee for the eightieth Congress. Many Southern polltax Democrats joined the bitter-end Republicans in voting against it.

"Take An Amendment, Willie"



This cartoon from CIO News of 1940 shows how sharply National CIO reacted then to backdoor deals between AF officials and lawyers for NAM and big corporations in attempt to amend the Wagner Act out of existence. Due to CIO's fight, this attempt and others were defeated at that time. Some talk of amending (read emasculating) Wagner Act is being heard on all sides now, as Congress prepares to work on the Taft-Hartley Law.

The bosses weren't idle. As early as 1939 they began a new offensive against the right of workers to organize and bargain collectively. As had hapened many times before they found traitors and stool-pigeons among the officials of unions. Chiefly they found them among the hidebound craft union officials of some AFL unions.

The new line took the form of proposed "amendments" to the Wagner act. The word "amendments' was misleading. Actually what they proposed was the complete gutting of the act. They proposed to set aside the whole development of industrial unions as carried on by the CIO and a return to the craft union straightjacket of the old AFL.

(More than 50 craft unions claimed jurisdiction over the steel industry. For more than 50 years the steel industry had been unorganized—open shop and company union).

NEW WRINKLES

The enemies of organization also thought up another wrinkle —the Congressional "investigating" committee. Under polltax Congressman Howard Smith (D., Va.), the Congress committee did a smear job on the Natl. Labor Relations Board, the progressive unions that used it, and the Wagner act itself. This attack brought no new legislation, but it laid the groundwork not only for the Taft-Hartley act but also for the anti-labor smear jobs carried to extremes in the 80th Congress.

(Parallel to this new offensive was the anti-union, anti-progressive drive of the Dies committee, first incarnation of the present House Committee on un-American activities).

The strongest defenders of the Wagner act and the NLRB were the workers who made up the CIO. From 193 on the CIO adopted an uncompromising position — the Wagner act was not to be amend-

The strongest defenders of the Wagner act and the NLRB were the workers who made up the CIO. From 1937 on the CIO adopted an uncompromising position—the Wagner act was not to be amended. Far from perfect, it was so far the best legal protection the workers had against anti-union bosses. Those who hated the CIO—the bosses and the encrusted bour-bons of the AFL—wanted to destroy the Wagner act. For 10 years the rank and file and the leaders of the CIO kept it intact on the statue books.

Finally, in February, 1940, the CIO blew the lid off the campaign to cripple the Wagner act. Philip Murray, then vice-president of the CIO, testified before the Senate Labor Committee that certain leaders of the AFL had conspired with top lawyers for the National Asociation of Manufacturers to draft the "amendments" to the Wagner act then under Congressional consideration.

The CIO testimony showed by copies of letters between the attornies for the NAM and the late Joseph Padway, counsel for the AFL, that they had got together in repeated meetings to cook up plans for emasculating the Wagner act.

It was proved, for example, that "a series of . . . secret conferences had been held between Joseph Padway, Gilbert H. Montague, Earl F. Reed and Ernest S. Ballard. The major order of business at these conferences was the proposed amendments to the Natl. Relations Act."

The three men that the AFL's counsel met with were attorneys for 14 big corporations that had been found guilty of violations of the Wagner act and had been named by the LaFollette Civil Liberties Committee as users of labor spies, buyers of teargas, machineguns and other lethal weapons against unions.

Among these men was Colby M. Chester, president of General Foods and one-time president of the National Association of Manufacturers, who, the CIO charged, "consulted with and aided Montague in regard to the specific amendments that Montague and Reed were drafting for Joseph Padway at his request."

The charges, made by Murray in place of John L. Lewis, then president of the CIO, were never disproved or effectively denied by the NAM attorney's and their friends in the top officialdom of the AFL.

As a matter of fact, the CIO charges roused great indignation among AFL rank and file members. Wires and letters by the thousands poured into CIO and AFL headquarters protesting the traitorous actions of a handful of AFL officials conspiring with the NAM to wreck labor's "magna carta.'

More than that, hundreds of workers came to Washington to tell the Congress "hands off the Wagner act." Thousands more called on their Congressmen at home with the same message. Sacksful of mail swamped the House and Senate post offices. The CIO conducted a steady and vigorous campaign to preserve the Wagner act—and the Wagner act was saved.

NO CHANGES OR AMENDMENTS IN THE WAGNER ACT TOOK PLACE UNTIL THE TAFT - HARTLEY LAW WAS PASSED IN JUNE, 1947.

The combined forces of the NAM, the labor-hating Congressmen and the traitors were defeated. For 12 years the Wagner act remained the law of the land.

The Wagner act legally recognized the right of American workers to join unions of their own choosing, to elect union officers of their own choosing, to build their own organizations free from intimidation and coercion by the boss.

It called for no "anti-communist" affidavits and set no political tests among unions. The only thing the Wagner act called for was the right of free workers to organize their own free unions.

The Taft-Hartley law wiped out that right. Today, the issue is full restoration of the Wagner act as it stood before the Taft-Hartley law was passed in a storm of anti-labor, redbaiting hysteria.

Many of the men who fought the Wagner act ten and a dozen years ago are still in power, both in the corporations and in those unions whose leaders are more concerned with fighting "reds" than they are with their members' welfare.

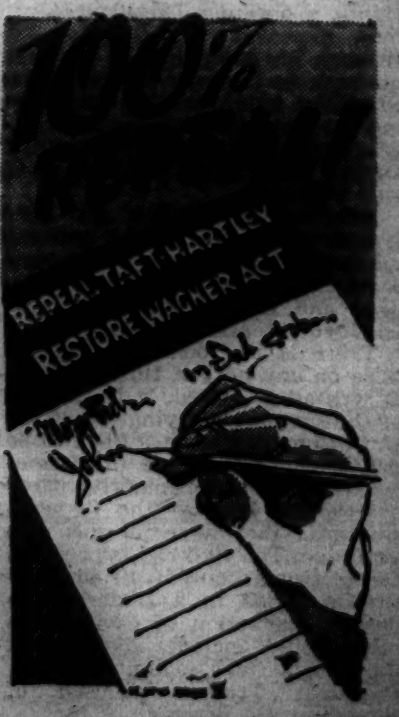
The leaders of the Truman administration in Congress and in the White House are blowing hot and cold on the simple issue of complete repeal of Taft-Hartley and complete restoration of the Wagner act.

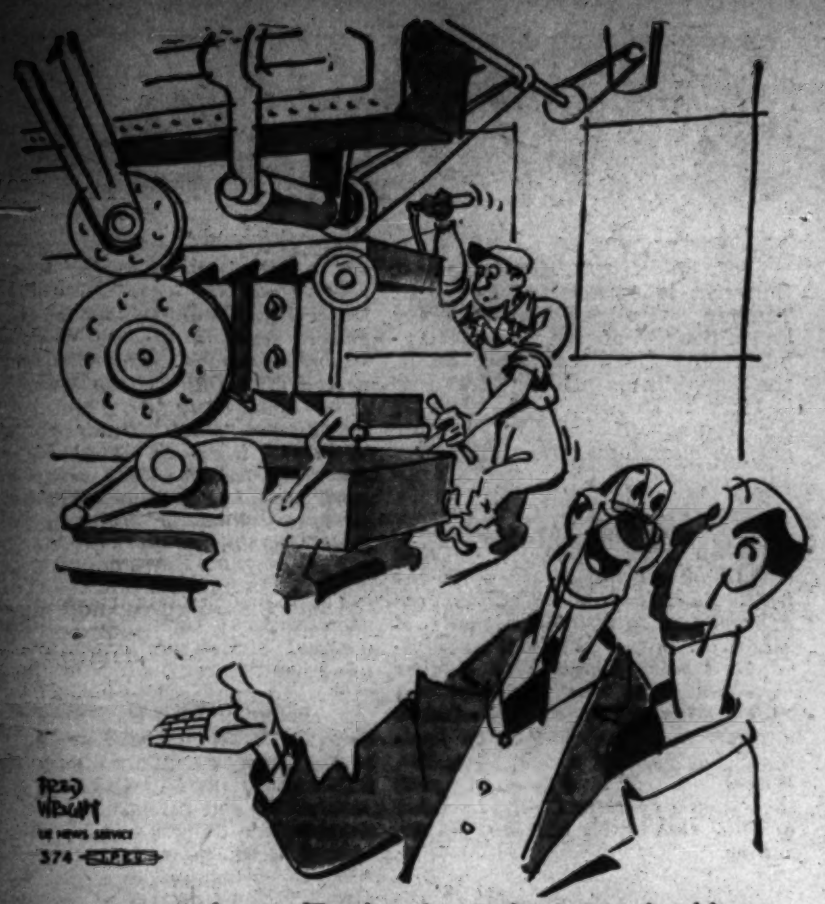
But the workers of both CIO and AFL are determined that the Wagner act will again become the law of the land—and this time, they'll make it stick for even longer than ten or a dozen years.

Quote of the Month

"While Mr. Truman didn't put too much emphasis on universal military training during his campaign he wants it. There is much opposition to this revolutionary change in our way of life, but not much against our foreign policy of upholding and supporting the colonial racket nations of Europe. There is not enough scum on earth from which enough volunteers can be recruited for this thug duty. Compulsory military service seems a MUST under our present foreign policy."

M. T. Robinson, in the Philadelphia Independent Negro weekly.





TAFT-HARTLEY MEMO...

AFTER REPEAL, WHAT?

President Truman and most of the Democrats newly elected to the 81st Congress campaigned on a platform calling for repeal of the Taft-Hartley act, and the same call was repeated in President Truman's opening message to Congress January 5.

The results of the election and the clear Democratic majority in both houses of Congress make repeal not only feasible but also very probable, provided Administration forces press hard in the first few days and weeks of the new Congress.

But there is more to ending the slave labor law than simple repeal of Taft-Hartley. Something has to go in its place. Workers want this something to be the complete restoration of the old Wagner (National Labor Relations) act, just as it was from its passage in 1935 until it was killed by the 80th Congress in 1947.

FTA and other CIO unions have made it clear that the Wagner act must be put back on the books. Under this law, workers had the right to organize and bargain collectively free from all interference from the employer. The Wagner act was not "one-sided" as employers said. It simply confirmed the constitutional right of workers to organize by making it illegal for the boss to interfere. If this is one-sided, then so are laws against burglary, which also "discriminate" against lawbreakers.

DANGER SIGNALS

It is still too early to say what Congress will do when it gets around to the Taft-Hartley act. However, there are some danger signals flying even as Congress opens.

Two such signals were hoisted the day after Congress opened by two powerful leaders, **Speaker Sam Rayburn (D., Texas)** and House Labor Committee Chairman **John Lesinski (D., Mich.)**. They came the day after **Rep. Vito Marcantonio (ALP, N. Y.,)** put his bill for total repeal and restoration of the Wagner act into the House hopper.

Said Lesinski, in remarking that restoration of the Wagner act "will not work": "Too much has happened since the Wagner act was passed. What we will do in the House is to pass on entirely new labor bill. It will contain some of the Wagner act and a few features of the Taft-Hartley law."

To which Speaker Rayburn added: "Congress wouldn't want to leave the country without any labor law at all"—and carefully refrained from mentioning the Wagner act.

Lesinski heads the Labor Committee through which any new labor legislation must come. According to news reports, he thinks that the new labor law must retain three Taft-Hartley features: 1. An "amplified version" of the affidavit requirement; 2. means "to protect the country" from nation-wide or "emergency" strikes; and 3. bans on "wildcat" strikes.

SAME IN SENATE

Lesinski added that repeal of Taft-Hartley would not be attempted until a new bill is worked out. Meantime, the Taft-Hartley law would stay in effect.

Over in the Senate, the picture was the same. Even Senator **Wayne Morse (R., Ore.)** who fought Taft-Hartley in 1947 has been saying the Wagner act must be changed when T-H is repealed. "We must amend the Wagner law," he told nwesmen, "so that labor and industry will receive equal treatment. We must give industry the same protection labor gets."

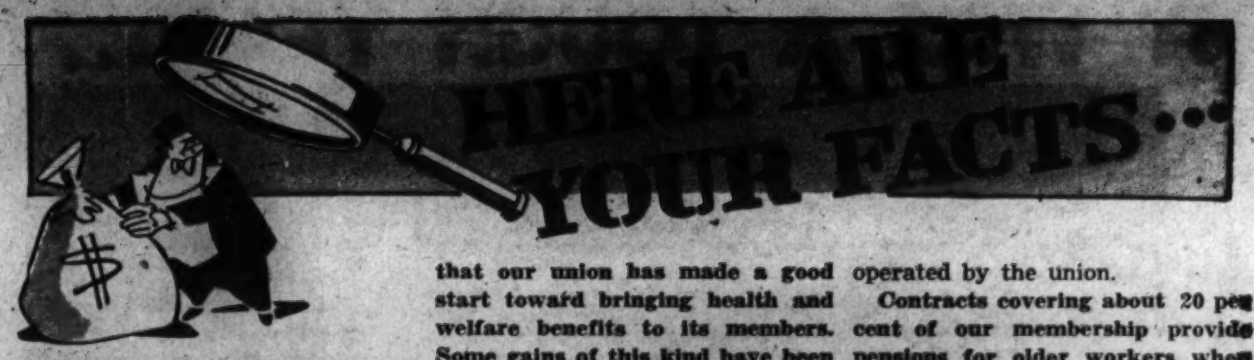
(The Taft-Hartley law did just that. Under it, employers are permitted to bully, threaten, intimidate workers as they please.)

ME TOO, SAYS AFL

As usual, officials of the AFL (George Meany, its secretary and David Dubinsky, president of the Ladies Garment Workers) have come forward to help out the employers. They too have said that the Wagner act must be "amended" to ensure 'free speech" for employers, continue the Taft-Hartley "non-communist" affidavits, allow employers to call elections, etc.

FTA's stand on the Taft-Hartley law is clear: 1. Total repeal; 2. Restoration of the Wagner act as it was before June, 1947; 3. Immediate dismissal of Robert N. Denham, NLRB counsel, and a real voice for labor on any new Labor Relations Board.

FTA petitions, letters, etc., to Congressmen will help overcome this dangerous tendency to keep parts of the Taft-Hartley law on the statute books.



Health And Welfare Aids In FTA Contracts

By Joseph Califf
Research and Education Director

Health and welfare benefits are becoming more and more important as a subject of contract negotiations between unions and employers.

Increasing numbers of unions are demanding and getting for their members such things as group life insurance, accidental death and dismemberment insurance, hospitalization, surgical and medical payments, accident and sickness payments, paid sick leave, and old age pensions. In some cases the company pays the full cost of the program and in others the workers pay part of it.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that some kind of insurance or pension plan is in effect in nearly half of the manfacturing companies in this country. Group life insurance and hospitalization are the most common types of benefits.

More than 17 million workers are covered by group life insurance policies set up by agreement between employers and unions or operated by the companies alone. Fifty-two million people are covered by hospital insurance plans as Blue Cross, although only a small proportion of these are plans negotiated between unions and employers.

A check of FTA contracts shows that our union has made a good start toward bringing health and welfare benefits to its members. Some gains of this kind have been gotten for nearly 40 per cent of the workers covered by FTA contracts. The industries in which the greatest progress has been made are horticulture, seafood, cigars, canning, and dairy products.

In most cases the benefits are small and far from adequate to meet the needs of workers for protection against sickness, injury, death, and old age, but they do represent a beginning in a field which until recently has been almost closed to collective bargaining.

About 16 per cent of the workers under FTA agreements are covered by some kind of group insurnace plan. Under these agreements workers are entitled to such things as life insurance policies, hospitalization, accident and dismemberment insurance, and cash payments during illness.

Local 293, which represents cemetery workers in New York City, has the most comprehensive of any of these plans. Each of the members of this local has a $1,000 life insurance policy, a policy paying up to $1,000 for accidental death or dismemberment, Blue Cross hospitalization, and surgical payments.

In addition, most of the workers receive weekly cash payments when they are unable to work because of illness or injury. The full cost is paid by the companies under contract, each of which contributes from two per cent to three per cent of its payroll into a central insurance fund set up and operated by the union.

Contracts covering about 20 per cent of our membership provide pensions for older workers when they retire.

About three per cent of the workers covered by FTA agreements get paid sick leave. Some of these contracts allow as much as 30 days of sick leave a year. One of the best of these agreements provides that:

"Employees . . . who have been working continuously for one year or more are to be allowed sick leave in any one year with full regular pay, at the rate of one week for each consecutive year of continuous employment, up to but not more than a total of 30 days sick leave in any one year."

In some contracts unused sick leave is cumulative from year to year.

The best method of protecting workers against the hazards of sickness, accidents, and old age is through a national system of compulsory health insurance paid for by employers, and an improved Federal old age benefit system which pays pensions large enough for retired workers to live on. Since we do not have this sort of system at the present time, we must step up our campaign to obtain health and welfare benefits through collective bargaining.

Pres. Charles E. Wilson of General Electric Co. admitted to the joint profits subcommittee that his company spends a million dollars a year on propaganda to counteract the influence of the United Electrical Radio & Machine Workers (CIO).

Who Said That?

"This matter of discrimination in unions in the CIO I think is being given too much over-emphasis. The president of CIO some five or six years ago appointed a committee to deal with these problems. If there are such problems existing in CIO then certainly they should be brought to the committee which has been set up to handle these affairs. This matter should have been brought to the committe before bringing it to the floor of this convention."

Willard Townsend, President, Transport Service Employees Union, CIO, at 10th CIO Convention 1948.

Speedup Zooms In "CAMELS"

Workers who make Camel cigaretes at the R. J. Reynolds plant in Winston-Salem, N. C., are having the company screws tightened on them in the form of extreme speedup, according to reports in FTA Local 22's paper the **Reynolds Organizer.**

For example, day shift workers on the stemming machines used to have 15 minutes to shut down the machines, change clothes and be out of the plant at four. Now they're ordered to keep the machines running until the night shift is ready to take over. Between the two shifts, this means 30 minutes extra work Reynolds is getting for free.

Leafhouse workers who used to run six barrels in 20 minutes now have to do 12 in the same time. This is a mankilling job, and workers used to work 10 minutes and rest 10. Now they work every minute without pause — 100 per cent speedup.

The time for handling a lot in the casing and drying department was cut last week from 22 minutes to 15—a 33 per cent speedup. And in the press room, where plug tobacco is made, a new machine has just killed the jobs of 32 men—a machine speedup that puts 32 workers out of a living.

Last May, the price of Camels went up 40 cents per 1,000, which brings Reynolds an extra profit of $41,500,000 a year without additional sales.

That's what speedup and profiteering do to workers.

CIO Raiders Gyp Leaf Workers

The kind of job a raiding union does for the boss is dramatically shown by the experience of the tobacco leafhouse workers employed at the Reynolds house in Greensboro, N. C., where the CIO United Transport Employes (redcaps) raided FTA recently.

By a combination of threats, cajolery and outright lies, the Transport union agent succeeded in persuading workers to sign a petition for a Taft-Hartley election.

The FTA was edged out of the picture—and then the workers got their "reward" from the new union. They said the seasonal workers were "temporary" and therefore they didn't have to bargain with them. Reynolds added that the leafhouse was not in interstate commerce and therefore didn't come under any Federal law requiring it to bargain—not even Taft-Hartley.

Greensboro leafhouse workers are now so tied up with Taft-Hartley redtape that they won't even get an election until October, 1949—and in the meantime, no contract, no wage increase, no union protection.

But the Transport Service agent solved his problem. He simply left Greensboro to try the same tricks in Winston-Salem, N. C.

Farm Equipment Workers Defy CIO Order to Disband

So that there shall be no misunderstanding from the outset, let me say on behalf of my fellow officers of FE-CIO, that your committee carries absolutely no status with our organization.

My appearance here is permitted solely out of common courtesy to individual officers of CIO affiliates.

Our local unions have endorsed a forthright rejection of any and all Pearl Harbor ultimatums to disband our union.

You will recall that our decision was to refer all issues of policy to FE's highest body, a regular convention of democratically lected delegates assembled in Cedar Rapids on March 25, 26 and 27.

This position has the wholehearted and unqualified support of our membership. You gentlemen should be well aware of these facts now. Mr. Rieve is familiar with the position of our union. I assume he has acquainted you with our board's and membership's position. I well leave additional copies of it for your information.

To register here the profound indigation of our membership towards this unprecedented attack on the autonomy of international unions would merely belabor the point. As a consequence, I don't propose to debate these facts.

Actually, our local unions have specifically forbidden me to discuss this or any other matter with you. I am more than happy to comply with their wishes.

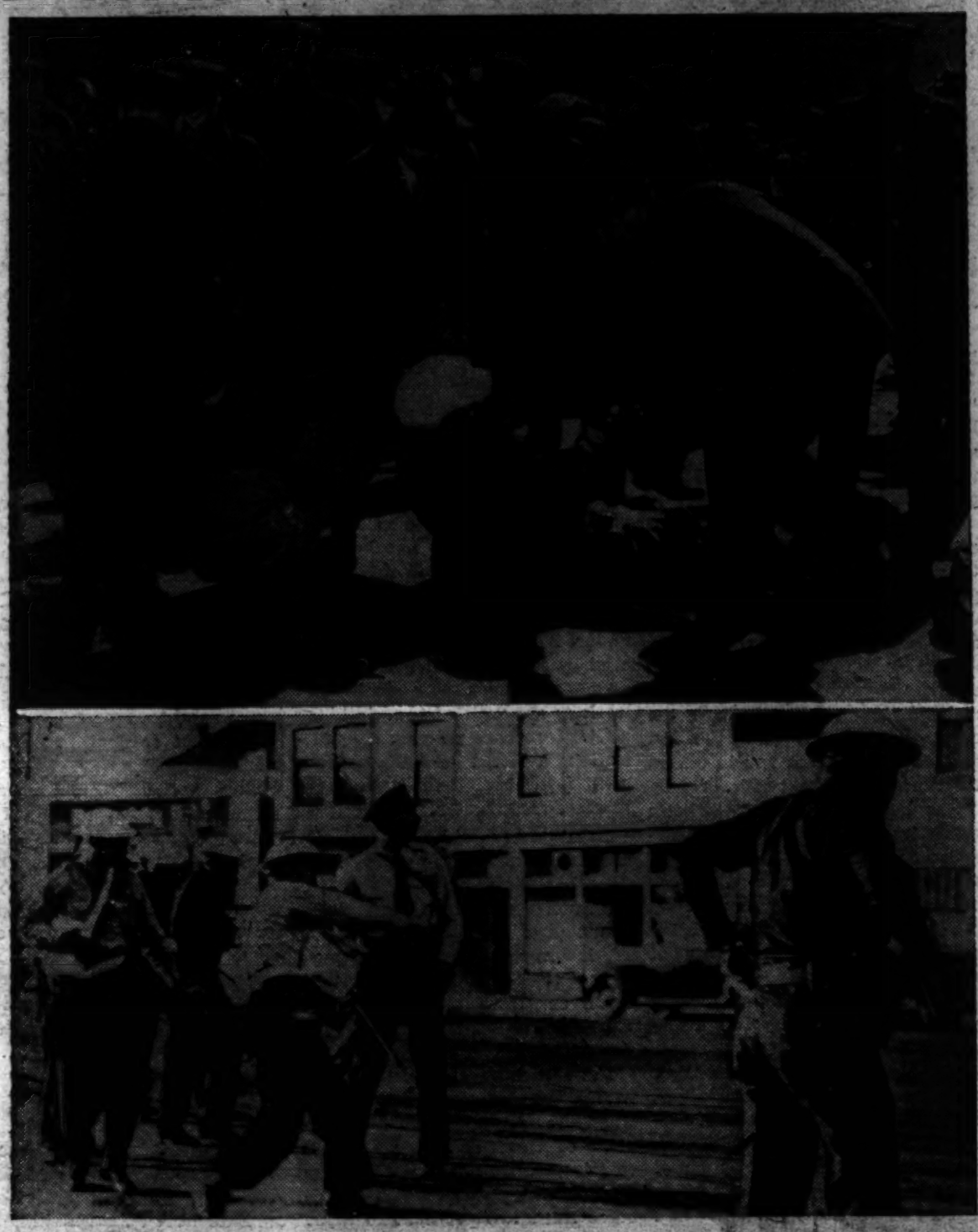
May I take this opportunity to inform you gentlemen that our union has a long history of experiences in repelling disruptive forces who would seek to by-pass the desires, the objectives and the well being of our membership.

We are just as determined to do it again, and just as successfully. As long as our membership is silidified—and it is very much so—unprincipled attacks of the nature you are confronting us with will be of no avail. Our convention will prove this conclusively.

Our union has pressing business before it, such as preparation for a fourth round of wage increases, the fight for a pension plan, the improvement of our contracts, the fight against phoney speed-up plans, a genuine repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act, etc. We shall not be sidetracked by union-wecking vendettas. These are the crystallized sentiments of the people I represent.

Good day, gentlemen.

IT WAS A TOUGH YEAR...



The Taft-Hartley law came into full effect in 1948. It was supposed to stop strikes, bring "labor peace." It didn't. Instead, workers who were forced to strike for living wages were treated to police clubbings and teargassings all over the country. Above, AFL workers at the N. Y. Stock Exchange get their going-over in New York. Below, CIO's Oil Workers were on the receiving end of tear gas and nightsticks during a long strike and lockout on the west coast. Bothe unions involved complied fully with TH.

Lack of housing, caused by big business refusal to build low and moderate cost homes, brought suffering to millions during the year. Children were hurt especially, as the faces of these bewildered kids show. Their parents, Detroit workers, were evicted and forced to take up quarters in an abandoned voting booth.

T-H Affidavits Drop 28 Per Cent

Local unions and their officers have been staging an effective boycott of the Taft-Hartley affidavits required of unions that wish to submit their members of the anti-labor Natl. Labod Relation Board, U. S. figures show. Between November and January 1, the NLRB reports, the number of signers has dropped off by nearly one-third—28 percent, to be exact.

Unions never did develop any great rush to sign the "non-communist" affidavits since only a fraction of the several score of thousand locals in the country signed even at the peak of Taft-Hartley compliance. Now that fraction is falling off.

For example, the number of CIO unions signing affidavits was 1,860 on November 30, 1948. On December 30 the number had gone down to 1,583. The AFL total fell in the same period from 7,566 to 5,313, while the "independents" dropped off from 1,652 to 993. The total number of affidavits from all three groups was of 104,269 to 74,894.

Much of this falling off is due to the election, which convinced union leaders that the slave labor law was going to be repealed. However, it is also true that those unions whose officers did sign got a bellyful of the Taft-Hartley NLRB even while they were in compliance. The Machinists union, first of the big ones to sign, spent the entire year complaining loudly that it had done them no good.

First bill on the list of the 81st Congress is a raise for President Truman, vice-President Barkley and Speaker of the House Rayburn. The Democrats are for it, the Republicans are for it and so is Herbert Hoover. We're glad for Mr. Truman. It's nice to get your old job back and a raise too.

* * *

Every so often the newspapers come up with some thing that should be on the funny page but isn't. The Journal of Commerce offered two such items recently. A Mr. C. L. Wages has been appointed feed sales manager to Quaker Oats and a Mr. Paul Whitman who "for the past 20 days has conducted a grain and feed brokerage business" has formed a new firm. Mr. Wages and Mr. Whitman, with their vast experience in business affairs, should be able to get together.

* * *

Mr. L. T. Boulware, vice-president of General Electric, believes that big business is falling down on its job—which is to educate the people on the blessings of "free enterprise." Mr. Boulware has found out that GE can reach 32 people with "one of our complete economic messages for 10 cents" whereas it costs from four to 10 dollars "for a foreman or other supervisor and an employe to get together on company time for long enough to send the employe home as a teacher." This may help to explain GE President C. E. Wilson'c admission the other day that his corporation was spending a cool million bucks a year to counteract union propaganda.

* * *

According to the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the productivity of workers in the soap industry is high—in 1947, it only required 21 minutes to produce 100 pounds of the stuff. According to another source, "advertising adds nothing to the ability of soap to remove dirt." Yet Proctor and Gamble and Colgate-Palmolive spent between them $43,194,256.00 to advertise their products. Looks like the American people can make a powerful lot of soap but take a it.

* * *

Could be that the newspaper ads, like the election polls, don't pull quite like they're supposed to.

* * *

"I'm Doris Duke again" was the simple and innocent statement of Doris Duke-Cromwell-Rubirosa, on getting a Reno divorce from her second husband. The newly divorced Miss Duke is the heiress of the $130,000,000.00 fortune of the late James "Buck" Duke, founder of the American Tobacco Co. American Tobacco workers at $35 a week and less will be cheered to know that Doris is just plain "Miss Duke" again.

* * *

President Truman reports that the number of Greek partisans has doubled since the Truman Doctrine went into effect. Newspapers report that the Chinese Communists are about to take over in China. U. S. taxpayers can be proud to know that they have contributed so heavily to these two revolutions—at latest count, about three billion dollars worth of hard-earned U. S. taxes.

* * *

Life among the bosses has its crosses too, as Mr. Lorenzo Zerillo, president of the Riverbank Canning CoZ. of Modesto, California, has just found out. Mr. Zerillo has been sentenced to from one to 14 years in San Quentin for trying to bribe the head of the state bureau of food and drug inspection. Mr. Zerillo offered the state official a bribe of $5,000 to release some 1,800 cans of condensed tomato paste. The official refused and Zerillo got the works.

* * *

Dan Tobin, president of the AFL Teamsters union, has had some tall explaining to do lately. Tobin, who used to chair the National Democratic party's labor committee, came out with a cheer for Dewey in the "Teamster" just before the election. Now Tobin is busy denying everything, since Truman got elected. Our best guess is that Dan will be forgiven, just like the Dixiecrats are.

* * *

But the thing that Tobin can't forgive is the failure of Teamster goons to bust FTA through raids. That's why the funeral song to being sung over Holman Day, who tried to bust FTA Local 78 in California. As the song goes "When Day is done, and shadows fall . . ."

* * *

Would-be CIO raiders will be well advised to take a lesson from the Teamsters. . . . FTA ain't big but it can fight like hell to protect its members.

Don't Reject Other Races

(This article was written by a 12-year-old school boy in New York. FTA News publishes it because we think it has something to say for all of us).

By Antonio Ramires, age 12

Well an election has come and gone, Truman was re-elected and the campaigns have ended. This election brought us many strange happenings. There was one that impressed a thought in my mind. On Sept. 11, 1948, Isaiah Nixon, a Negro with six kids was murdered. Why? Well he wanted to vote! Voting, as you all should know is not only our right but our duty, yet Isaiah Nixon voted in the democratic primary election in Georgia and was killed for doing so .

You may say, "He must have been killed for some other reason, after all his was only one vote." Yes, it was only one vote, yet with the murder of Nixon, every Negro in Georgia was scared. I don't blame them. After all, I like life an awful lot too. So with that murder the Negroes of Georgia were scared away from the polls.

Some things hurt a person more than death. Being rejected is one of these things. Here's a question that may seem silly: Did you pick your parents? Naturally not. So if a man was born of Negro parents it's not his fault. Being a Negro is not a disgrace. Yet Negroes are hated for the mere crime of having dark skin.

The same goes for hated Jews, Italians, Spaniards or any race in the U. S. Remember the words of the immortal document called the Declaration of Independence: "We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal . . . ." So remember when you reject you are committing the crime of breaking a man's spirit, his confidence and his mind.

Men have been driven to desperation for less things than being rejected. You might be guilty of doing that by rejecting and hating. Keep that in mind! Besides that, a person who has prejudice is a traitor. Yes, a traitor to all that Abraham Lincoln worked for. A traitor to all the men that died in the Civil War. A traitor to humanity. If you think Benedict Arnold was bad, you, too, can be as bad as he was by carrying prejudice in your heart.

Remember World War I and II. Negroes, Italians, Jews, Spaniards, Christians and people of every race fought, were wounded, perhaps killed that justice might triumph. If a man called Jackson, a Negro, was in trouble, a man called Goldstein, a Jew, would not hesitate to help him, for in a war teamwork was what counted and teamwork is what counts in peace.

So reject a person not for his race but for his character as an individual. Join the crusade against racism and hate.